118. State aid in the development of education in the Neyyattinkara Taluk.

Mr. A. Kesava Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) said that the only way to improve the economic condition of the people was by giving them English education. As observed by Mr. V. K. Govinda Pillai, Member, T. I. C., Neyyattinkara, their present depleted condition would not permit of their depositing Rs. 10,000 as an endowment for the High school. So, he requested Government to be pleased to have higher forms opened immediately. More classes in the Vernacular school should be started, with teachers. The present system of teaching Malayalam in Vernacular schools was seriously defective, as those who passed out of class VII were very poor specimens of Malayalam scholars who could not understand even the ordinary works of Ezhuthachan or Kunjan Nambiar. Steps should be taken to improve that state of affairs. It was not of much use to introduce the teaching of industrial subjects in a few Vernacular schools in the State. For instance, Neyyattinkara produced a good deal of tapioca. An enquiry should be started as to the feasibility of establishing a Tapioca Flour Factory and making biscuits. Similarly, other Vernaculr schools should have attached to them some industry. Lastly, all facilities should be afforded to spread education among boys of the Thandan community. The Member also submitted a memorial from the Thandan pupils of the taluk praying for half-fee concession and for allowing them to be represented at the Assembly by a member of their community.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

119. Desirability of raising the English School for girls at Chengannur into a Higher Grade school.

Mr. A. Narayana Pillai (Member, Chengannur taluk) said that the English Girls' school at Chengannur was established about 6 years ago. The highest class at present was Form III, the total number of pupils being 200. Those who passed out of Form III had no other school to go to. So, they were now studying in the Boys' English school, which was most undesirable, as the average age of the girls was 17. There were at present 23 girls in Form IV and 13 girls in Form V. Some of the girls were even 19 years of age. The Member, therefore, prayed that his request be granted. When the Inspectress asked the people whether they were prepared to pay additional rent in case it was necessary to put up a new shed, they had agreed to do so.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

120. Educational needs of the Shertallay taluk.

Mr. Vinamsi Thomas (Member, Shertallay taluk) said that the number of Vernacular schools in Shertallay was not proportionate to the area of the taluk or to the educational requirements of the people and, therefore, asked for more Vernacular schools and also higher classes in the present incomplete Higher Grade schools with provision for the teaching of such industries as coir, woodwork, rattan-work, button-making from cocoanut shells; mat-making, etc. There was only one Vernacular Higher Grade school for girls. Two such Girls' schools should be started at Eramallur and Kattur, the northern and southern ends of the taluk. Class VIII should be ordered to be opened at least in one Higher Grade Vernacular school. In regard to English education, they were under serious disabilities. Though the number of youths thirsting for English education was far greater than in several other taluks which had been given complete High Schools, they had only one incomplete High School with Form V. It was high time that they were granted Form VI. So, the Member requested that the higher form be opened at once.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

121. Desirability of raising the Lower Grade English school at Ettumanur into a Higher Grade one and of constructing a suitable building for the school.

Mr. N. Govinda Pillai (Member, Ettumanur taluk) said that six years ago a Lower Grade English school was established by Government at Ettumanur. It was first held in a shed put up by the people. Later on, the English school and the

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Vernacular school were placed under one Head Master and the former had, therefore, to be shifted to one room in the Vernacular school. The English school had a strength of 90 boys with 4 classes. Great inconvenience was being felt by the boys of the English school who, together with the articles of furniture and other equipments, had been huddled together in one room. The boys of the Vernacular school also, 300 in number, were being put to great hardship. So, the authorities of the Vernacular branch had insisted on the room used by the English school being vacated. The shed put up by the people for the use of the English school had been sold in auction under Government orders. The result was that there was no room either for the Vernacular or English school nor was there any space in the school compound for drill or out-door game. The state of affairs was known to the Director of Public Instruction who, in November 1916, had addressed Government on the desirability of removing the English school to another building. The Government having been thus informed of the immediate necessity of providing a separate building for the English school, steps were taken to assume lands for the construction of a new building for the English school and the taluk authorities also were taking some action and the last that was heard was that an estimate for Rs. 13,780 had been sanctioned by Government. That was in 1916. At the beginning of the current year, the people of Ettumanur were informed by the Head Master under orders from the Director that, if the people would purchase a site and hand it over to the department, a building would be constructed by Government. Pursuant to that instruction from the Director, a public meeting was held to raise funds and the Member was made the Secretary to the Committee to whom was entrusted the task of collecting subscriptions. Scarcely had they started on that work when they were informed by the Assistant Inspector on the strength of a wire from the Director that the people should provide a site and also construct the necessary building. That piece of news was highly disappointing to them. The Member requested that, in view of the backward condition of education in the taluk, the conditions insisted on for the grant of High Schools in other taluks should not be applied to Ettumanur and that the building should be put up at the cost of Government on the site provided by the people. In conclusion, the Member requested that prompt action might be taken in the matter of raising the institution to a High School standard in course of time.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the construction of the new school-house, Government would sanction special funds for the building this year itself, if possible, or, in any case, provide for the building in the budget of 1095, in case the people would undertake to give a site. Form IV will not be granted in the ensuing school year, as the strength of the school does not warrant it. That question will be considered later on.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-20 P. M.

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